

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Eastern Connecticut State University Fine Arts Instructional Center Willimantic, Connecticut

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About the Art in Public Spaces Program:

Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program was established in 1978 and requires 1% of the cost of construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork as part of the building's construction project. The [Connecticut Office of the Arts](#) and the Department of Administrative Services jointly administer the Art in Public Spaces Program. Visit the [Art in Public Spaces](#) program webpage for further information about the program and to view past installations throughout the state.

Project Summary:

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and [Eastern Connecticut State University](#) are currently seeking the qualifications of artists for public art at ECSU in Willimantic, CT associated with the new Fine Arts Instructional Center and may consider interior and/or exterior site-specific installations that may result in one or more works of art.

Budget: approximately \$365,000

RFQ Deadline: July 15, 2016

Eligibility:

Artists MUST register a portfolio in the Art in Public Spaces Registry. Submit a new registration or update an existing profile by the deadline indicated above. Review the [registry webpage](#) for more information about the registration process. The Eastern Fine Arts project is open to both in-state and out-of-state artists.

About Eastern Connecticut State University and the Fine Arts Instructional Center:

Eastern is located in Willimantic, a city located in the Town of Windham that uniquely combines rural living and small city life and embraces arts and culture. Over the recent years, the university has played a significant role in the revitalization of downtown Willimantic with their participation in the [Thread City Development](#) partnership.

Eastern is a 4-year public liberal arts university with a total enrollment of just over 5,000 students and is part of the [Connecticut State Colleges and Universities](#) system. Students benefit from small classroom instruction at a

university that takes pride in community engagement, sustainability, and cultural experiences. Eastern is a tight-knit community and is supportive of student achievement. Approximately 50% of the student population are first generation college students, a statistic the University is proud to highlight. In addition, Eastern was recently recognized as one of two universities in the United States leading the way in the nation's largest scholarship program for DREAMers, immigrant youth who came to the country without documentation. [View the press release for further information about this unprecedented program.](#) TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship is privately funded and helps students fund tuition, fees, on-campus housing, and meals while they study to earn their bachelor's degree.



New to campus is the [Fine Arts Instructional Center](#) which combines teaching, performance, and exhibit space for the Art and Art History Department and the Performing Arts Department (Music and Theatre programs).

The new 118,000 square foot building is located on the east side of campus and consists of four stories of new construction.

This signature building on campus reflects the University's desire to enhance their presence and support of the fine arts on campus. [View an animation of the building created by the architectural firm.](#) The building opened for courses in the Spring semester of 2016.

The new building includes [University's Art Gallery](#) and three performance venues: a 400 seat auditorium that serves as a space for campus and community gatherings, a 254 seat proscenium theatre for campus performances, and a flexible 125 seat studio/black box theater.

Project Description:

The committee is considering commissioning and/or purchasing the work of one or more artists for the new Fine Arts Instructional Center. The artwork should complement the programs of study within the building while connecting to the greater campus community. The artwork should be iconic, engaging, and can include interactive characteristics. It should be lively and serve as a focal point that welcomes students and visitors into the building and possibly through the main public spaces. Therefore, the committee is exploring both interior and exterior spaces with a preference for artwork that engages both spaces visually and at an appropriate scale that balances the signature architectural style of the building. The new building is dominated by two striking glass façades and is symbolic of Eastern's message to the greater community that it considers the arts on campus an open and inclusive place for all.

The President has expressed the desire for all students to learn about and participate in the arts while on campus, and the Fine Arts Instructional Center is designed to energize Eastern students by ushering them into a space in which to think, create, and experience. The new artwork should support these goals for the building; it should welcome, challenge, and prepare students to engage with the arts and learning while reflecting the University's values as a whole. Eastern has embraced the arts on campus and this new opportunity will add to the existing [public art collection](#) on campus and will become an integral part of the campus experience.

Construction Project Status:

The Fine Arts Instructional Center is an occupied building; therefore, artists commissioned for this opportunity must consider the existing site constraints and academic schedule. Detailed information will be provided to artists who are shortlisted for proposal development following the initial RFQ process.

Selection Process:

The Eastern Fine Arts project is administered as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Therefore, artists interested in this project must first register a portfolio in the [Art in Public Spaces Registry](#). There is no application process. The selection committee will review the portfolios of artists registered in the database and will shortlist a group of artists who will be invited to submit site-specific proposals for the project.

Portfolios of artists already registered in the Art in Public Spaces Registry will automatically be reviewed. The registry is designed as a one-time registration process allowing artists to be considered for multiple projects; therefore, portfolios should indicate a range of work samples. Updates may be made but COA recommends limiting updates to no more than once a year.

Project Timeline *(all dates are subject to change):*

RFQ Deadline:	July 15, 2016
Shortlisted artists selected by:	August, 2016
Artist selected by:	November, 2016

For ALL questions related to the Art in Public Spaces program and the Eastern opportunity, please contact:
Tamara Dimitri, Art in Public Spaces Program Specialist, Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), tamara.dimitri@ct.gov